

# **STUDENT ACTIVITIES/ATHLETIC HANDBOOK POPLAR SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027**



## **Poplar Schools Athletics Mission Statement**

The mission of Poplar Schools Athletics is to provide a positive, safe, and competitive athletic program that promotes the physical, mental, social, and emotional growth of every student-athlete. Through sports, we strive to develop character, integrity, discipline, teamwork, leadership, and respect while encouraging healthy lifestyles and lifelong learning.

Our student athletes are expected to represent Poplar Schools and our community with pride, sportsmanship, and excellence both on and off the field of play. We are committed to fostering an environment where dedication, perseverance, accountability, and respect for others prepare students for success in athletics, academics, and life.

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# **POPLAR SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTIVITIES-ATHLETIC HANDBOOK 2026-2027**

## **Directory Information**

Regarding student records, federal law requires that “directory information” on a child may be released by the District to anyone who requests it unless the parent/guardian/caretaker relative objects in writing to the release of the information. This includes release of directory information to post-secondary institutions and military recruiters. Directory information ordinarily includes [insert directory information that is consistent with policies 3600P-3600F1-3600F2]. Please make sure a parent/guardian/caretaker relative completes the Student Directory Information Notification as found in the Student Handbook.

## **Requirements**

All students participating in extracurricular activities must have the following prior to the first practice:

- A required physical documented on the official Montana High School Association (MHSA) Physical Form (at least for all MHSA sanctioned activities).
- An Assumption of Risk statement signed by the parent.
- A Permission to Participate form (sign-off).
- An updated Medical information form.
- A Concussion Education and Compliance form signed by the student athlete and parent.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this guide is to establish rules, procedures, policies, and philosophy as it pertains to the Poplar School District Athletic and Activities Programs. The fundamental purpose of the athletic/activities program is to facilitate development of:

- Sportsmanship,
- A sense of responsibility to themselves and others,
- A devotion to an athletic and/or activities assignment,
- Pride of accomplishment of a job done to the best of one’s ability,
- Sense of belonging to a group,
- Social values derived from contact with students and adults from other communities and
- Healthy behaviors of participants.

## **Chain of command/communication**

Poplar School District has an established chain of command when dealing with co-and extracurricular issues. Any issue that influences student performance should first take the lowest level of action to address the situation. If the remedy at the lowest level is not appropriate, it then progresses to a written complaint process.

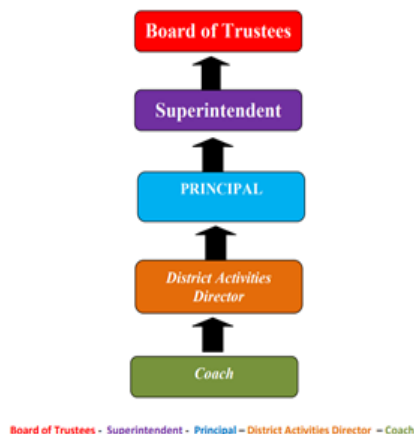
## **Complaint Process:**

Board Policy 1700: Universal Complaint

This is the chain of command for the complaint process: Student/parent, assistant/head coach, District AD, Principal, Superintendent, Board of Trustees. The following process should be used to address complaints. 1) Try to solve the problem informally with the other party involved. There will be disagreements between parents, athletes, coaches and staff. Poplar School District wants to strongly encourage all parties to try and remedy the issue at level 1 with the coach; 2) Issue the complaint in

writing to the person involved and make sure a remedy/solution is requested in the complaint. If not resolved then step 3. 3) The complaint is then directed to the AD or administration, and they will investigate the issue and give a written response following the timeline included with Poplar School Board Policy 1700. If not resolved, then it goes to then step 4. 4) The complaint is then referred to the Superintendent who will investigate the complaint and give a written response to the action sought by the complainant, if not resolved then; 5) The issue is taken to the School Board whose ruling is final.

Since you are working with students, you (as their advisor/coach) need to be cognizant of the rules as dictated by the parent/student handbook and by Board policy and District Standard Operating Procedures. This is your information source when dealing with student behavior.



### **Disciplinary Action**

Disciplinary Action for coaches, advisors, participants will be handled by the District Activity Director and the Administration as per policy and expectations for any unreasonable and unethical behavior or lack of supervision. Any action taken will follow chain of command and due process procedures as well as use of all necessary documentation. In the event of continued noncompliance or “flagrant disregards” formal and immediate action may be required. If a student is ejected from a MHSA competition for unsportsmanlike conduct, they will not participate for the remainder of the event and will be suspended for the next regularly scheduled or rescheduled event at that level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level of competition.

### **Sportsmanship (MHSA Handbook p. 26-27)**

#### **Section (33) SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES**

- Statement of philosophy: The Montana High School Association has established policies, expectations and responsibilities which will cultivate the ideals of good sportsmanship. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals employed or directly associated with the interscholastic program conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. The coach represents the school at interscholastic athletic activities. It is the responsibility of the head and assistant coaches to serve as role models for students and the public.
- Code of Conduct: A coach will be in violation of the standards for good sportsmanship established by the Montana High School Association by:

- Making degrading/critical remarks about officials during or after a contest either at the competition site, from the bench, in the locker area or through any public news media;
- Arguing with officials or going through motions indicating dislike/disdain for a decision;
- Detaining the officials following a contest to request or argue a ruling or explanation of actions by the official;
- Being ejected from a contest;
- Physically assaulting an official.

### **Academic/MHSA Eligibility**

Poplar School District will follow the eligibility rules as set forth by the Montana High School Association which reads as follows:

#### **MHSA Requirement**

A student must be enrolled and have received a passing grade (D-) in at least twenty (20) periods (4 classes) of prepared class work or its equivalent in the last previous semester in which the student was in attendance. Failure to meet this requirement will result in one (1) semester of ineligibility. A home school student is not eligible to participate for an MHSA member school. (Article II, Section (2) Eligibility, MHSA handbook)

#### **Poplar High School Requirement:**

Student-athletes' grades will be reviewed by the Athletic Director or designated administrator at each established progress-monitoring date. Grades will also be checked the following Monday after the eligibility report is run for those students who are failing classes.

Students who are determined to be on probation or suspension will have their eligibility reviewed each Monday until the next official grading period (midterm, quarter, or semester). If a student remains ineligible in a class at the next official grading period, the student will be considered ineligible for the remainder of that athletic season.

Students placed on Academic Probation or Academic Suspension will develop an academic improvement plan. The plan will identify specific steps, goals, and expectations designed to help the student improve their academic performance and regain eligibility.

Parents and student-athletes are strongly encouraged to monitor Infinite Campus regularly to stay informed of grades, assignments, attendance, and academic progress.

Academic Probation: student can still participate in activities but must follow steps. Student can still practice.

Academic Suspension: student is ineligible to participate in activities and must follow steps. Student will have opportunities to get out of Academic Suspension by having all passing grades. Student can still practice.

#### **1 Failing Grade (Academic Probation)**

- Student is placed on academic probation while participating in activity
- Student has 1 week to raise the grade from failing to non-failing.
- Mandatory tutoring – must attend 3 hours of tutoring for the week (only if 1 failing grade)

- Failure to attend practice and tutoring will result in loss of eligibility for the remainder of the grading period.
- Failure to raise the grade to passing will place the student on academic suspension but must still comply with 3 hours of tutoring

#### 2 or more Failing grades (Academic Suspension)

- Loss of eligibility immediately and student is placed on academic suspension
- Students grade will be checked weekly after one week of being ineligible to see if they are passing in all classes
- Mandatory tutoring – must attend 5 hours of tutoring for the week (only if 2 or more failing grades)
- Failure to attend practice and tutoring will result in loss of eligibility for the remainder of the grading period.

It will be mandatory for all student/athletes with one or more failing grade to attend after school tutoring until he/she is off the failing list. Grades will only be checked in the class they were failing at the grade check time. If a student fails to become eligible in that class at the next grading period, they will be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the season.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Participation:

8<sup>th</sup> graders are allowed to participate in Poplar High School Athletics and will follow the same academic guidelines as those students in grades 9-12.

#### Age Rule – MHSA

##### Section (7) AGE RULE

7.1 No student is eligible to participate in an Association contest who has become nineteen (19) years old on or before midnight, August 31, of a given year. Therefore, a student who becomes nineteen (19) years old after midnight, August 31, of a given year, will be permitted to compete in all Association contests throughout that school year, under the provisions of this section.

#### **Activities Philosophy**

It is our philosophy that participation in co-curricular activities is an integral and vital part of the total educational program.

The clubs, activities, and athletics provided by Poplar School District shall afford opportunities for students to involve themselves outside the classroom. Besides providing these programs, the District encourages student involvement because it benefits both the individual student and the school. The student derives cooperation, dedication, personal pride and ownership, sense of purpose, enhanced self-worth, loyalty, success and recognition, physical and social development, and a wholesome use of time.

Student interest leads to pride in school, citizenship, leadership, democratic experience, and character development. Teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for others' rights and views are advanced.

Therefore, we believe it is the responsibility of the District to identify and maintain a mix of activities that motivates an optimum number of students without encroaching on one another. It is further incumbent upon the District to encourage participation by students for the above-mentioned reasons and their synergistic effect on the school community.

Finally, we believe that these activities are not an end in themselves, but vehicles to work with students. We want to "win" not for "winning's sake," but because the desire to excel is a worthwhile lifetime goal. We do not subscribe to a "winning at all costs" philosophy. We value the importance of good sportsmanship, giving one's best effort, winning humbly, and losing with grace. We believe it is not the score that makes one a "winner" or a "loser".

### **Awards**

Post season awards will be issued at the Poplar School District's athletic banquet. Coaches will have the option of issuing 2 plaque awards. The awards issued will be letter winners, participants, academic all-state, 3 sport athletes, and any post-season awards issued by the MHSA.

### **Assumption of Risk Statement**

Liability: The coach/advisor/director, any other member of the school staff, or any member of the Board of Trustees will not be held liable or responsible in case of an accident incurred during practice, games, meets, matches, tournaments, concerts, or trips supervised by Poplar Public Schools. Each parent or guardian will be responsible to sign an "assumption of risk" statement indicating that the parents/guardians assume all risks for injuries resulting from such participation.

### **Injuries:**

All injuries are to be reported immediately to the coach/advisor/activity director regardless of the nature of the injury. The coach/advisor/director will fill out an accident report form and file it in the principal's office within one (1) school day of the accident.

### **Attendance/Suspension Information**

#### **School Absences:**

Absences from school and participation in practices, games, meets or performances.

- If you are absent from school for a school sponsored event you can practice, play in a game, or take part in a performance that day.
- If you are absent from school for a limited number of periods for a medical, dental, optometrist, etc. appointment you can participate with approval from the administration (principal, vice principal, or the activities director). A written excuse from the doctor is required.
- You may attend practice, play games, or participate in performances with administrative approval if absent due to court appearance, bereavement, a family emergency, or some other reason deemed acceptable by the administration.
- If you are home sick and do not come to school for all or part of the day or are absent from any class (excused or unexcused) you cannot practice, play, or participate in performances/games. It is not in the best interest of our participants to be practicing when sick.
- If you are in school but are absent from class for reasons deemed unexcused, you may not participate in games, practices, or performances that day.

- Unforeseen circumstances (i.e. weather, school cancellation) will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the administration.

#### School Suspension:

School suspension means the exclusion of a student from attending individual classes or school and participating in school activities for an initial period not to exceed ten (10) school days. This will be treated as an unexcused absence from the activity. A student who is suspended will not be able to practice during the time they are suspended from school. Poplar Schools has zero tolerance for athletes/participants who violate school policy and are suspended from school.

#### Practice Expectations:

Excessive absences from practice are defined by the following: any student who has missed more than 3 unexcused practices during the season. Poplar School District believes that to run effective and successful programs that expectation that students be at practice must be upheld. We understand that circumstances arise and it crucial that the head coach is notified before an absence from practice. The ramifications from excessive absences will result in the student being removed from the activity. It is mandatory that a doctor's excuse be provided in writing when the student is absent from practice.

#### **Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing Policy**

The Board will strive to provide a positive and productive learning and working environment. Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or hazing, by students, staff, or third parties, is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated. **(School Board Policy #3226)**

"Hazing" includes but is not limited to any act that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or as a condition or precondition of attaining membership in or affiliation with any District-sponsored activity or grade-level attainment, including but not limited to forced consumption of any drink, alcoholic beverage, drug, or controlled substance, forced exposure to the elements, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, sleep deprivation, or any other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental or physical health or safety of a student; requires, encourages, authorizes, or permits another to be subject to wearing or carrying any obscene or physically burdensome article, assignment of pranks to be performed, or other such activities intended to degrade or humiliate.

"Bullying" means any harassment, intimidation, hazing, or threatening, insulting, or demeaning gesture or physical contact, including any intentional written, verbal, or electronic communication ("cyberbullying") or threat directed against a student that is persistent, severe, or repeated, and that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, that takes place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation, at any official school bus stop, or anywhere conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a student or staff member or an interference with school purposes or an educational function, and that has the effect of:

- Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property;
- Knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student's property;
- Creating a hostile educational environment, or;



- Substantially and materially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

Electronic communication device” means any mode of electronic communication, including but not limited to computers, cell phones, PDA, social media or the internet.

### **Reporting**

All complaints about behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. Any student, employee, or third party who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this policy or feels he/she has been a victim of hazing, harassment, intimidation, or bullying in violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report his/her concerns to the building principal or the District Administrator, who have overall responsibility for such investigations. A student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor, who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate District official. Complaints against the building principal shall be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent or District Administrator shall be filed with the Board.

### **Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies**

A person alleging violation of any form of harassment, intimidation, hazing, or threatening, insulting, or demeaning gesture or physical contact, including any intentional written, verbal, or electronic communication, as stated above, may seek redress under any available law, either civil or criminal, after exhausting all administrative remedies.

### **Sex Based Discrimination and Title IX**

No student, on the basis of sex or, in accordance with binding guidance of the Federal Office of Civil Rights regarding the scope of Title IX’s sex discrimination prohibition, gender identity, sexual orientation, or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity will be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, or advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Inquiries regarding discrimination based on sex should be directed to the District Title IX Coordinator, located in the Poplar School District Administration Office.

### **Sexual Harassment Policy (B.P. 3225)**

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is prohibited. An employee, District agent, or student engages in sexual harassment whenever that individual makes unwelcome advances, requests sexual favors, or engages in other verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed based on sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, opportunities, or treatment, or that makes such conduct a condition of a student’s academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
  - a. Substantially interfering with a student’s educational environment;
  - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
  - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, opportunities, or treatment;
 or
  - a. Making submission to or rejection of such unwelcome conduct the basis for academic

decisions affecting a student.

Students who believe that they may have been sexually harassed or intimidated should consult a counselor, teacher, Title IX coordinator, or administrator, who will assist them in the complaint process. Supervisors or teachers who knowingly condone or fail to report or assist a student to take action to remediate such behavior of sexual harassment or intimidation may themselves be subject to discipline.

- FOR A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION of the Poplar School Sexual Harassment Policy, refer to Policy Descriptor code: BP 3225 and/or contact Frank Gourneau Title IX Coordinator, Poplar Public Schools.

### **Cell Phone Use by Students**

Student possession and use of cellular phones, and other electronic mobile devices on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, and while under the supervision and control of District employees is a privilege which will be permitted only under the circumstances described herein. At no time, will any student operate a cell phone or other electronic mobile devices with video capabilities in a locker room, bathroom, or other location where such operation may violate the privacy right of another person.

#### **Activity Trips:**

During activity trips students are permitted to bring their phones but can use them for emergencies only. On travel to a scheduled event cell phones are prohibited (including buses). On overnight trips cell phone usage is prohibited after 10 PM. Further stipulations by head coaches may be imposed for cell phone usage while on away/overnight trips.

### **Code of Conduct**

Students participating in extra- and co-curricular activities, whether sponsored by the MHSA or not, shall not use, have in possession, sell, purchase, or distribute alcohol, tobacco products, alternative nicotine and vapor products, or illegal drugs or abuse prescription or non-prescription drugs during their extracurricular seasons. This policy applies to middle and high school students who are involved in the extra- and co-curricular activities program.

### **College Recruiting**

Coaches are encouraged to promote their athletes for scholarships whenever possible, however this should be done after consultation with parents. Documentation of all contacts with representatives of secondary institutions should be forwarded to the Activities Director. When counseling athletes or their parents, coaches should inform them of NCAA student-athlete eligibility requirements.

### **Code of Ethics**

#### **ACTIVITY CODE OF ETHICS:**

It is the duty of everyone involved in school activities, participant or sponsor, to:

- 1) Emphasize the proper ideals of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and fair play.
- 2) Eliminate all possibilities which tend to destroy the best values of the activity.
- 3) Stress the values derived from participating in activities.
- 4) Show cordial courtesy to visitors and officials.
- 5) Respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials.
- 6) Achieve a thorough understanding of the activity and its rules.
- 7) Encourage leadership and good judgment.

- 8) Recognize that the purpose of activities is to promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of all involved.
- 9) Remember ... no competition is a matter of life or death for participants, coach, school, official, fan or community.
- 10) Keep an open line of communication between participant and coach/sponsor.
- 11) Hazing, harassment, bullying, intimidation on the part of students, staff, or a third party (fan or student attending event) will not be tolerated. Activities are an extension of the classroom and a violation will be treated as such and dealt with as stated in the student and staff handbooks.
- 12) Realize that your failure as a student participant to abide by the code of ethics may result in your removal from the event, activity, and/or disciplinary action.
- 13) Students, who participate in athletics and/or activities where a student receives an award or advances as an individual or as part of team through levels of interscholastic competition, will be part of the drug testing program as outlined in Poplar District Drug Policy.

#### **Contact Numbers**

Poplar Schools District Office (406) 768-6601

Poplar High School (406) 768-6833

Poplar Middle School (406) 768-6733

Poplar Elementary School (406) 768-6633

#### **Concussion Education and Compliance**

Concussion Form: All participants and their parent/guardian must initial all the required information on the concussion form and have it completed before the student may begin practice.

#### **Corporal Punishment (Discipline and Punishment of Pupils M.C.A. 20-4-302)**

No District employee or person engaged by the District may inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment on a student. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force District personnel are permitted to use as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or other persons or for the purpose of self-defense.

#### **Curfew**

Sunday – Thursday      10:00 pm

Friday and Saturday    11:00 pm

Night before an event   10:00 pm

#### **Cut and Tryout Information**

If your program involves selections or “try-outs” for the team, you must provide the Athletic Director with a copy of your criteria before your season begins. There will be no “selections” until you have 3 days of practice.

This can be one of the most difficult decisions a coach has to make but, good communication between coach, athlete, parents, and Activities Director can prevent a lot of problems.

Individual coaches will develop their criteria for selection of those participants who will be placed on a team and those who will not be placed on a team. These criteria will be made known to participants at the beginning of their season. These criteria may be more stringent than the baseline requirements contained in this handbook. The Activities Director prior to implementation will approve all team selection criteria.

#### Tryouts and Team Selection for team sports

The purpose of this section is to establish a fair, consistent, and transparent process for team tryouts and player selection. This policy is designed to support the educational and athletic mission of the district, promote sportsmanship, and maintain the integrity of the athletic program.

##### Tryout Participation:

All student-athletes must meet district and Montana High School Association (MHSA) eligibility requirements to participate in all high school sports.

Attendance at all scheduled tryout sessions and practices is mandatory unless excused by the coach or athletic director for legitimate reasons (e.g., illness, family emergency, medical reasons, documentation needed). Those who are not cleared for medical purposes will have to wait to try out until medically cleared with documentation.

Student athletes out due to medically documented reason(s) are exempt and will be allowed to try out for all teams and placement of individual will be at the discretion of the coaches once student is cleared for play. They could still be cut at the discretion of the coaches.

Student athletes will be evaluated on the following criteria along with other criteria set forth by the coaching staff: Skills and game understanding associated with specific sport, Effort, work ethic, and conditioning, Coachability and attitude, Teamwork and communication, Athleticism and potential, Attendance and tardiness, Commitment to academic and behavioral expectations (grades and class attendance).

##### Selection/Cut Process:

Team selection is based on a comprehensive evaluation conducted by the coaching staff.

The head coach has the sole and final authority to determine the composition of the team roster.

The number of players selected will be determined by factors including, but not limited to, roster size limitations, competitive needs, and player safety considerations.

Participation in tryouts does not guarantee placement on a team.

There is a possibility that cuts may happen with the number of athletes joining that will determine if cuts take place.

For future development of younger athletes' seniors will not be able to play/participate in lower levels below Varsity (such as JV and C squad). Also, Juniors will not be able to participate in C squad. Although a decision can be made by coaching staff and administration to accommodate some students such as special needs/etc. prior to the season starting. Also, the number of athletes will be taken into consideration as well to be able to field teams.

##### Notification of Team Selection:

Coaches will communicate roster decisions in a professional and respectful manner.

Student athletes not selected for the team will be provided with the opportunity to receive feedback regarding areas for improvement.

In the interest of student growth and accountability, communication regarding team selection shall occur directly between the student-athlete and the coach, not between parents and the coaching staff.

**Parent and Guardian Involvement:**

Parents or guardians may request a meeting with the coach only to discuss their students' personal development within the program.

Meetings intended to question or dispute coaching decisions, playing time, or team selection will not be granted.

Parents, guardians, and community members are expected to uphold the district's standards of respect and sportsmanship. Any behavior deemed inappropriate, harassed, or undermining to the program or coaching staff may result in disciplinary action or removal from athletic events.

**Administrative Support:**

The district and athletic department fully support the authority of the coaching staff to make roster decisions based on their professional judgment.

**District/Building General Office Hours (Optional)**

High School Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Friday 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

At 8:45 A.M. the doors will be locked. There is a phone in the main office for students' use. The purpose of this phone is strictly for parental/guardian contact. When parents/guardians call the school, messages will be taken for a return call during non-instructional time. If it is an emergency, a student will be pulled from class. We do not relay messages from non-parents calling for non-family business, nor do we acknowledge that the student attends this school for privacy and safety reasons.

**Dress and Grooming**

Coaches/sponsors/advisors are hereby encouraged and authorized to establish exemplary standards and practices in fashion, grooming and taste that will tend to enhance the appearance of the group. Such standards and/or practices must be of a reasonable nature, appropriate to the group's activity and reflect positively on the image of the group and school.

Further, these standards and/or practices must be made known to all potential members at the beginning of the activity season for that group (or sooner if possible).

**Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Policy Information**

The Athletic Department, in compliance with school policy, prohibits the use/abuse of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs of any form at any time. The training rules also extend beyond school time, school grounds, and school functions during the athletic season whether they are in sports and/or clubs. We, as a department, feel that abstinence should be a way of life in and out of school.

Definition of a violation: "A violation of the Poplar High School Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use Policy is any drug, tobacco, or alcohol related incident, which occurs on or off school premises or at school sponsored functions.

A violation includes:

- Purchase of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- Possession of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs
- Being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco or drugs or testing to a positive swab or Urine Analysis (UA)
- Being at a function/gathering in which an illegal substance is possessed or used
- Dealing in alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs
- Possession of devices specifically or reasonably associated with alcohol or tobacco or drug use.
- The refusal of a student to cooperate fully by submitting to a request of a UA. Any refusal will result in an automatic positive. Failure to urinate within 60 minutes results in a failed test. Tampering with urine will also result in automatic fail (ex: adding fluids to test)
- Student admission will be an automatic positive/violation of this policy whether it is use of drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco.
- A court conviction involving alcohol and/or other drugs will constitute a violation of training rules.

PROBATION: student can still fully participate but must comply and follow guidelines set forth

SUSPENSION: student can only participate in practice but not competitions and must comply and follow guidelines set forth

For purposes of the Poplar Junior High School or Poplar High School athletic program, the definition of a violation will include the out of school hours throughout a sports season. All violators are to be reported to the athletic director and/or principal. Coaches must report violations and are not to handle violations on an individual basis. In addition, the principal, dean of students, and members of the faculty have the responsibility to report violations promptly to the athletic director. Any person may report violations.

Follow-up action may require the commitment and or identification of the individual(s) reporting the incident to participate in due process hearings. Violations during the sport season are addressed for all individuals in the same manner with fairness, and firmness of the student and team involved. Violations of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol will be accumulative for that academic school year meaning they reset each year. Any decisions are at the discretion of the licensed addiction counselor/athletic director/administrator.

Sports Season: Fall, winter, and spring seasons begin on the first day of practice/participation allowed by the MHSA/Poplar High School/Jr High, and end as soon as the student leaves Poplar High School/Jr High property after the final competition for that activity. Activities listed within the 2nd Semester will be from the 1st day of the Semester to the final day of competition for that activity. Testing will be conducted for students under suspicion and that have been reported.

#### CONSEQUENCES (Tobacco/Vapes)

First Offense:

- A. Meeting (face to face, email, phone call) of student, parent, athletic director, and/or coach/sponsor).
- B. Probation from the current and/or next activity for ten (10) pupil instruction days, to begin immediately upon violation of this policy (or at the discretion of administration).
- C. Student must attend all practice sessions during the ten (10) pupil instruction days. Student and parent/guardian will sign a contract for the student to attend and complete tobacco counseling/sessions.

The completion of the tobacco addiction program will be determined by the counselor in accordance with athletic director. Parent/Guardian may be required to attend one session.

D. Student will be allowed to practice and participate but must comply with all coaching rules and expectations along with B and C above. Failure to meet or work toward meeting B/C will also prohibit the student from participating on any other athletic team until obligation has been met and will move student from probation to suspension. Student must complete specific requirements by counselor and athletic director to be removed from suspension.

#### Second and Third Offense:

Follow A, B, C, D from first offense. Only addition will be on section B, 5 added days per offense after the first offense. (Ex: Second offense-15 pupil instruction days, Third Offense-20 pupil instruction days)

#### Fourth Offense:

- A. Meeting (face to face, email, phone call) of student, parent, athletic director, and/or coach/sponsor).
- B. Suspension from participating in extracurricular events for the remainder of school year.

#### CONSEQUENCES (Alcohol/Drugs/Drug Testing)

Any violation of drugs will result in the student/athlete being tested at the discretion of the school (nurse, admin, AD, etc.). A violation of alcohol will not mean the student will need to take a drug test other than as assigned by the athletic director for an activity/random test. Alcohol and drug violations both run concurrently so a violation of drugs and then alcohol will result in 2<sup>nd</sup> offense. The consequences afforded the student/athlete for violation of the training rules of the Poplar High School/Junior High School Athletic Department shall be consistent with school policy for alcohol, tobacco, and drug use, and will include the following conditions:

TESTING: students under suspicion of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be tested

REFUSAL: refusal of drug test will be an automatic positive result.

#### First Offense:

- A. Meeting (face to face, email, phone call) of student, parent, athletic director, and/or coach/sponsor).
- B. Probation from the current and/or next activity for fifteen (15) pupil instruction days, to begin immediately upon violation of this policy (or at the discretion of administration).
- C. Student must attend all practice sessions during those fifteen (15) pupil instruction days. Student and parent/guardian will sign a contract for the student to attend and complete drug and alcohol counseling/sessions and complete an evaluation (Poplar Schools can refer student/and parent to a licensed addiction counselor). The completion of the drug and alcohol program will be determined by the counselor in accordance with athletic director. Parent/Guardian may be required to attend one session. The student must complete a negative drug test after the fifteen (15) pupil instruction days.
- D. Student will automatically be included in Poplar School Districts drug testing program if it was a drug violation. It is to be understood that Poplar School District reserves the right to drug test any student at any time who has violated the drug policy. Student will be allowed to practice and participate but must comply with all coaching rules and expectations along with B and C above. Failure to meet or work toward meeting B/C will also prohibit the student from participating on any other athletic team until obligation has been met and will move student from probation to suspension. Student must complete specific requirements by counselor and athletic director to be removed from suspension.
- F. Student will automatically be subject to drug testing at the discretion of the athletic director/admin/school.

#### Second Offense:

Follow A, B, C, D from first offense. Only addition will be on section B, 5 added days for the second offense after the first offense. (Ex: Second offense-20 pupil instruction days)

#### Third offense:

A. Meeting of student, parent, coach/sponsor, and/or school administrator.

B. Suspension for the current and/or next activity for a minimum of twenty (20) pupil instruction days to begin immediately upon violation of this policy (or at the discretion of administration). At the discretion of the licensed addiction counselor/athletic director a student may be suspended for more than 20 pupil instruction days dependent upon if further care is needed and or the participation of the athlete needs to take more days due to various reasons.

C. Referral for professional help (Poplar Schools does have options for students and chemical dependency). If a student refuses chemical dependency services from Poplar School District any cost involved will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian or student.

D. Student may not resume competition until B/C above is completed. Student will be allowed to practice but must comply with all coaching rules and expectations. Failure to meet or work toward meeting B/C will also prohibit the student from participating on any other athletic team until obligation has been met. Failure to follow B/C will result in automatic suspension from current activity and any other activity for remainder of career until it has been completed.

E. Student will automatically be subject to drug testing at the discretion of the athletic director/admin/school.

#### Fourth Offense:

A. Meeting (face to face, email, phone call) of student, parent, athletic director, and/or coach/sponsor).

B. Suspension from participating in extracurricular events for the remainder of school year.

#### Testing Procedures

1. No student will be given advanced notice of testing.

2. Upon being selected for a urinalysis test under this policy, either by random draw, reasonable suspicion, request of a parent/guardian, or the follow-up test, a student will be required to provide a sample of fresh urine, according to the quality control standards and policy of the laboratory conducting the urinalysis.

3. All students will remain under school supervision until they have produced an adequate urine specimen. If unable to produce a specimen, the student will be given up to twenty-four (24) ounces of fluid. If still unable to produce a specimen within two (2) hours, the student will be taken to the principal's office and told he/she is no longer eligible for any of the extracurricular activities. In addition, the parent's/guardian will be telephoned and informed the student is unable to produce a sample for the testing procedure and that he/she may be tested at a later date to be reinstated for eligibility.

4. There is a head strip of each of the specimen bottles, indicating the validity of the urine specimen by temperature. All specimens registering below 90.5 degrees Fahrenheit will be invalid. If this occurs, another specimen must be given by the student.



5. If it is proven that tampering or cheating has occurred during the collection, the student will be ineligible for all the extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year. This will be reported by the parent/guardian.

6. Immediately after the specimen is taken, the student may return to class with an admit slip or pass with the time he/she left the collection site. The principal/administrative designee must time and sign the pass.

7. The specimen will be tested by the school nurse. If the test is positive the specimen will be sent to a testing laboratory for confirmation. The specimen will be tested for alcohol, nicotine, and street drugs (which may include all drugs listed as controlled substances under the laws of the State of Montana). Also, performance enhancing drugs such as steroids may be tested.

18. The laboratory selected must follow the standards set by the Department of Health and Human Services. It must be certified under the auspices of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) and Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (ICAHQ).

#### Chain of Custody

The school nurse will receive training on collection and testing procedures. To maintain anonymity, the student's number, not name, will be used.

2. The principal/administrative designee will be responsible for escorting students to the collection site. The student should bring all materials with his/her to the collection site and should not be allowed to go to his/her locker. (The administrator should not bring all the students drawn from the pool to the collection site simultaneously. Call four (4) or five (5) students at a time allows the collections to be carried out quickly and will not cause students to wait a long time, thereby creating a loss of important time from class. Athletes may be called after school, perhaps during practice time.

3. Before the students' urine is tested by the school nurse, students will agree to fill out, sign, and date any form which maybe be required by the testing laboratory. If a student choses, he/she may notify the administrator that he/she is taking a prescription medication.

4. A sanitized kit containing a specimen bottle will be given to each student. The bottle will remain in the student's possession until a seal is placed upon the bottle. The student will sign that the specimen has been sealed. The seal may be broken only by the lab testing the specimen. 102 Poplar School District STUDENTS 3350 Page 3 of 4

5. If the seal is tampered with or broken after leaving the student's possession and prior to arriving at the lab, the specimen is invalid. The student will be called again as soon as possible. The student will remain eligible for extracurricular activities subsequent to a retest.

6. The supervisor obtaining the urine specimen will be the same gender as the student. Students will be instructed to remove all coats and wash their hands in the presence of the supervisor prior to entering the restroom. The door will be closed so that the student is by himself/herself in the restroom to provide a urine specimen. The supervisor will wait outside the restroom. The student will have two (2) minutes to produce a urine specimen. The commode will contain a blue dye so the water cannot be used to dilute the sample. The faucets in the restrooms will be shut off.

7. After it has been sealed, the specimen will be transported to the testing laboratory by the school nurse. The testing laboratory will report the results to the principal/administrative designee.

8. In order to maintain confidentiality, the container which contain the urine specimen to be tested will not have the name of the student on the container. Instead, the student's random identification number will appear on the container. Also, the results sheet for the urinalysis will be mailed to the principal/administrative designee with no name attached, only the student's random identification number will appear on the results sheet.

### Test Procedure Results

This program seeks to provide needed help for students who have a verified positive test. The student's health, welfare, and safety will be the reason for preventing students from participation in extracurricular activities.

2. The principal/administrative designee will be notified of a student testing positive (that is if the test shows that drug residues are in the student's system after using at least two (2) different types of analysis). The principal/administrative designee will notify the student and his/her parent/guardian. The student or his/her guardian may submit any documented prescription, explanation, or information which will be considered in determining whether a positive test has been satisfactorily explained.

3. If the test is verified positive, the principal/administrative designee will meet with the student and his/her parent/guardian at the school. The student will be immediately suspended from activities for 10 pupil instruction days. The student must still practice. The student will complete a chemical evaluation and program offered by the Poplar Public Schools. The student will be prevented from participation in extracurricular activities until after a follow-up test is requested by the principal/administrative designee and the results are reported.

4. A follow-up test will be requested by the principal/administrative designee after 10 pupil instruction days if the student completes the chemical evaluation and program. Refusal to complete the program/evaluation will result in the student removed from the team for remainder of the season. If this follow-up test is negative, the student will be allowed to resume extracurricular activities. If a second positive result is obtained from the follow-up test or any later test of that participant the student will be immediately suspended again from the activity for 30 pupil instruction days and will be required to complete another evaluation and chemical dependency program. **In addition**, the District reserves the right to continue testing, at any time during the remaining school year, any participating student who tested positive and did not make satisfactory explanation.

5. A third-follow up test will be requested by the administration/designee when they feel that the student has made satisfactory gains in their chemical dependency program. The minimum amount of time from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> test will be 30 pupil instruction days. If the administration/designee feels that third follow-up test is not warranted it will not be issued. A failed 3<sup>rd</sup> test will result in removal from all athletic/extracurricular activities for 90 pupil instruction days. A parent/guardian will have the opportunity to contest the 90 days suspension. Only the Poplar School Board can overturn a 90 day suspension from all activities due to a third failed drug test.

5. Information on a verified positive test result will be shared on a need-to-know basis with the student's coach or sponsor. The results of negative tests will be kept confidential to protect the identity of all students being tested. (Poplar School District P. 103 STUDENTS 3350)

6. Drug testing result sheets will be returned to the principal/administrative designee, identifying students by number and not by name. Names of students tested will not be kept in open files or on any computer. Result sheets will be locked and secured in a location to which only the principal/administrative designee has access.

#### Financial Responsibility

1. Under this policy, the District will pay for all initial random drug tests, all initial reasonable suspicion drug tests, and all initial follow-up drug tests. (Once a student has a verified positive test result and has subsequently tested negative from a follow-up test, any future follow-up drug test that must be conducted will be paid for the student or his/her parent/guardian.)

2. A request on appeal for another test of a positive urine specimen is the financial responsibility of the student or his/her parents/guardian.

3. Counseling and subsequent treatment by non-school agencies are the financial responsibility of the student or his/her parent/guardian.

#### Confidentiality

Under this drug-testing program, any staff, coach, or sponsor of the District who may have knowledge of the results of a drug test will not divulge to anyone the results of the test or the disposition of the student involved, other than in the case of a legal subpoena being made upon that person in the course of a legal investigation. Once again, this will underscore the District's commitment to confidentiality with regard to the program. Other rules Apart from this drug-testing program, the Montana High School Association and the coaching staff/sponsor of each sports/activity have their own training rules and requirements. Coaches/sponsors have the necessary authority to enforce those rules. Any student who violates a rule or requirement as a member of a team or activity will be subject to the consequences as defined in those rules and requirements.

#### Dual Activity in a Season

The Poplar School District School District believes dual participation in athletic activities often puts a strain on other areas of the student's involvement (academic, athletic, social/emotional). In order for students to participate in dual activities the decision must be confirmed by the coaches/directors of both sports and the athletic director. It is highly recommended that students give 100% commitment to a single sport.

#### QUALIFYING ACTIVITY PREFERENCE

At any time a student is participating in multiple school-sponsored activities and more than one activity falls on the same day, the participant will attend and participate in the activity that is a state level competition or qualifying activity (districts/divisionals regionals) for future participation.

#### Extra-Curricular Activities Offered

Poplar Schools believe that offering extracurricular activities at the elementary age is critical to building and sustaining good programs. The activities offered will adhere to the Federal Title IX mandate. Offerings will be made at the end each school year to the Poplar School District Superintendent through the Athletic Director.

ELEMENTARY ACTIVITIES: Cross Country, Basketball, Volleyball, Flag Football

MIDDLE/JR HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Cross Country, Volleyball, Wrestling, Football, Cheerleading, Basketball, Track and Field

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: Cross Country, Wrestling, Volleyball, Football, Cheerleading, Speech and Drama, Basketball, Track and Field, Tennis, Golf, Tennis, Flag Football

\*Subject to change on a yearly basis

### **Homeless Student Rights**

Our school and school district provide equal access and comparable services to all students. A homeless student's residence is determined by the residence of the parent/guardian. A homeless student must meet all MHSA eligibility criteria for participation in any MHSA sanctioned activity. Contact the school district's Homeless Liaison and Activity Director for further assistance.

Keith Erickson  
Homeless Liaison  
Poplar Public Schools  
Box 458  
Poplar, MT 59255  
406-768-6665

### **Insurance and Injury**

The School District does not provide accident or medical insurance coverage for students. Insurance coverage may be purchased by parents through a private company for a minimum fee. Insurance information is distributed at the beginning of the school year and available throughout the year. Please review the information carefully, consider the benefits of such coverage, and complete the application as per instructions. This is an opportunity to provide insurance coverage while your child is at school or participating in activities. A parent seeking coverage must make sure the insurance coverage is in place prior to the first day of practice and/or school. Please contact the coach or athletic director for additional information.

### **Lettering Criteria**

Each District/Coach establishes their own criteria for lettering. That criteria will be shared with participants and parents at the beginning of each activity season. It is highly recommended that all head coaches follow a criteria that is fair yet maintains high expectations. An emphasis on post-season play/participation should be considered.

### **Meal Procedure**

#### **Recommended Meal Allowances**

Poplar Schools proposes the following meal allowance. We strongly encourage coaches to adhere to the policy. When the District provides meals, the following meal allowances will be adhered to (Per athlete):

|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Breakfast | \$15.00                               |
| Lunch     | \$20.00                               |
| Dinner    | \$25.00                               |
| TOTAL     | \$60.00 (exclusive of 20% gratuities) |

If breakfast or lunch is not offered the dollar amount can be utilized during the dinner meal.

Gratuities: Will not be included in any school purchase.

Any expense over the allotted amount will be the responsibility of the head coach/advisor to pay. It is highly recommended that head coaches/advisors order meals for their athletes. Any delivery fees is subject to be added to total meal allowance.

NOTE: Meal amounts MAY be accrued for ONE day. These amounts are MAXIMUM including beverage and/or dessert. Specialty drinks and or desserts are the students' responsibility.

### **Medication Policy (issuing meds to athletes)**

#### **ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS (SB Policy #3416)**

Poplar School District recommends that medication be given at home whenever possible. Students requiring medication shall be identified by parents and/or physician and will be encouraged to notify coach/sponsor or Activities Director. Under no circumstances will school personnel provide aspirin or other patient's medication to students.

### **Parent Meeting**

Parents/guardians and students participating in an activity are highly encouraged to attend an informational meeting to discuss and sign the student participation packet. Parents are required to sign only one of these packets per year. This meeting will be held before the first practice session. If parents are unable to attend the regularly scheduled meeting and would like to discuss this they would need to reach out to the athletic director.

### **Participation Fee (Districts Collection & Tracking)**

A participation fee at Poplar School District is not required by any athlete at any grade level.

### **Physical Exams (MHSA Form)**

A physical examination is required for each student in order to be considered eligible and to be approved for participation in an Association Contest. Physical examinations **must** be completed prior to the first day of practice. This examination must be certified by a licensed medical professional acting within the scope and limitations of his/her practice. This certification is valid for a period of one school year. A physical examination conducted before May 1st is not valid for participation the following school year. The physical examination form developed by the MHSA Medical Advisory Committee and approved by the MHSA Executive Board must be used. A current form may be obtained from the school office or from the medical office giving the physical.

A physical examination is required for each student in order to be considered eligible to participate in an association contest. This exam must be certified by a medical doctor for the current school year." (MHSA Handbook Article II Section III). The cost of the physical exam is the responsibility of the student athlete and his/her parents.

### **Policy Duration**

This policy/handbook is in effect each school year from the date of the first practice for fall activities until the last day of school or activities, whichever is later. Violations are yearly, through the student's period of attendance in grades 7-8 and in grades 9-12. The Administration shall publish the participation rules annually in the activities and student handbooks.

### **Student Sign Out Sheet (protocol when students request to leave site)**

Students are not permitted to leave the facility in which their coach/sponsor is present without specific permission from their coach/sponsor in advance of the student's departure. When permission is granted to leave the facility by the coach/sponsor, the student(s) must sign out with the coach/sponsor when leaving and sign back in upon their return. Any student who leaves the designated site without coach/sponsor approval will immediately be suspended from the team/activity on site and will not participate in the activity. The length of the suspension will be determined by the athletic director. Students leaving the designated location on away trips creates a safety issue that will not be tolerated by Poplar School District.

### **Prior Authorization to release a student:**

If a student-athlete chooses to ride home after an event with their parent/legal guardian, the signing of the Poplar athletic handbook acknowledges the parent/legal guardian right to do so. No pre-authorization form is needed if the receipt of this handbook is completed. They must speak directly to the coach/sponsor to check their child out.

For a student-athlete who chooses to ride home with someone other than their parent/legal guardian a prior authorization form **MUST** be filled out prior to the student-athlete being released to the parent/legal guardian. These forms can be found in the middle school and high school office. They must be signed by parent **AND** the building principal/athletic director.

### **Suspension or Exclusion from Team – (Who makes the call)**

Dismissal of any student from a co-curricular activity needs to be brought to the attention of the Activities Director as soon as possible.

If the discipline involves a high school student and the recommended discipline is exclusion from participation in extra- and/or co-curricular activities, the parent and student will be notified of the date and time the Board will consider the recommendation. **Only the Board can exclude a high school student from participation in extra- and/or co-curricular activities.**

### **Student and Parent/Legal Guardian Due Process**

If a determination is made that a student has violated any handbook or policy, the student and parent/guardian shall be notified of the violation by telephone/in-person and mail. Also at this time, the student and parent or guardian shall be notified of the type of discipline that will be administered.

Any parent or legal guardian and student who are aggrieved by the imposition of any action (other than a recommendation for exclusion from an activity) shall have the right to an informal conference with the principal, for the purpose of resolving the grievance. At such a conference, the student and the parent shall be questioned by the principal.

If the discipline involves a high school student and the recommended discipline is exclusion from participation in extra- and/or co-curricular activities the parent and student will be notified of the date and time the Board will consider the recommendation. It is critically important that parents, guardians, and/or participants understand that the expectations set forth by a program must be followed and if they are not, it is possible that the participant will be removed from the team pending school board

approval. **Only the Board can exclude a high school student from participation in extra- and/or co-curricular activities.**

### **Travel Rules, Regulations, Trips, and Procedure**

#### **Schools Sponsored Trips**

Student participation on intra and extracurricular trips is subject to eligibility requirements. (See Activity Eligibility.) Students participating in school sponsored trips, whether for the day or overnight, are regarded by Poplar School and the public as representatives of the school system. As representatives of the school system, public image is projected by the conduct, the attitudes and the reputations of those students who take a leading role in intra- and extra-curricular activities. Therefore, student participants must comply with rules of the school system, the rules of their coaches or advisors, and the civil laws of society.

Student conduct on any school sponsored trip that does not adhere to the reasonable standards established will be dealt with in a timely manner by the coach/advisor and administration. If there is a violation of any of these rules while on school sponsored trips the student could face the following: suspension from the team, discipline/suspension from school, and possible criminal action. Parents will be notified of any incident concerning their child on a school sponsored trip by the coach/advisor and/or administration.

Opportunities may occur for junior high students to attend high school co-curricular or extracurricular overnight events. Consideration for approval will be made on a case-by-case basis by administration at the request of the advisor or coach. And additional chaperone may be required if junior high and high school students are traveling together overnight.

#### **Travel Requirements**

All participants must travel to and return from all out-of-town activities with the team unless prior written permission is asked by their parents and granted by the administration. Participants will be released to travel with their parent/guardian only, after speaking directly with their coach/sponsor.

#### **Activity Transportation**

Because of the legal implications regarding school district responsibilities and liability for any student involved as a participant in a school sponsored extracurricular activity, participating students will be required to ride school-sponsored transportation to and from any activity taking place away from Poplar. This will apply to any student who is a member of a team, music group, cheerleading squad, pep bus or any other school-sponsored activity involving students as assigned participants. It does not include student spectators, except those riding on a pep bus.

The only exception will be a written request by a parent for their son/daughter to ride with THEM to/from the activity. The parents must SEE the coach/sponsor and sign a release at the time of the request. If for some reason, the parent may want the student to LEAVE an activity with someone other than themselves, a request must be made in writing PRIOR to the scheduled activity and must be pre-approved by the activities director or another Poplar\_Schools administrator.

Any person providing transportation for student activity members, with a specific request from the parent as previously outlined, must meet one of the following qualifications:

1) An immediate family member; sister/brother, grandparent, and/or adult 21 years or older. This person(s) must SEE the coach/sponsor and sign the student out prior to leaving the activity. Any participant who arrives late for a coach's/sponsor's announced leave time will NOT be allowed to participate in the activity for that day.

#### Transporting students with Personal Vehicles

The use of private vehicles for district business, including the transportation of students, is generally discouraged. Staff members should use district-owned vehicles whenever possible, scheduling activities and other transportation far enough in advance to avoid any non-emergency use of private vehicles. No staff members may use a private vehicle for district business without permission from the administration. Before transporting any students, the owner of any private vehicle must provide proof of sufficient liability insurance, current registration and a current Montana driver's license. A driver may only transport the number of students as there are seat belts in his/her vehicle. If a staff member doesn't have prior approval to transport students they subject to disciplinary action by the administration.

#### Transportation To/From a Contests

Transportation of students to and from co-curricular and extracurricular activities sponsored by the district is provided by the district's transportation system in accordance with district policy. Students will travel with district approved vehicles (Bus, Van, etc...) to school sponsored events. Transporting students in private vehicles to school sponsored events is not permitted.

No student is permitted to perform district business with his/her own vehicle, a staff member's vehicle, or a district-owned vehicle.

#### Video Surveillance

The Board authorizes the use of video cameras on District property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to District property and to safeguard District buildings, grounds, and equipment. The Superintendent will approve appropriate locations for video cameras.

The Superintendent will notify staff and students, through staff and student handbooks or by other means, which video surveillance may occur on District property. A notice will also be posted at the main entrance of all District buildings, and on all buses, indicating the use of video surveillance.

The district may choose to make video recordings a part of a student's educational record or of a staff member's personnel record. The district will comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance and retention. Audio will not be part of the video recordings made, reviewed, or stored by the district.